

REMARKS

The rejections of Claims 1, 2, 9 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by, and of Claims 1-6 and 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over, U.S. 6,987,141 (Okamoto et al), are respectfully traversed. All the claims now contain the limitations of Claim 7, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections over Okamoto et al be withdrawn.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability of Claims 7, 8 and 15-17. As discussed above, the amended claims are limited to allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

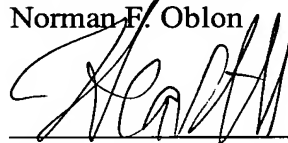
Respectfully submitted,

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